Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) In a capillary electrophoresis method in which analyte species are separated by differential electrophoretic migration through a fluid separation medium under the influence of a run field, an improvement for reducing peak broadening caused when the run field is established comprising:

establishing the run field at a ramp rate no greater than about 5 V/cm-s;

wherein the fluid separation medium is a buffered solution containing a non-crosslinked polymer and the analyte species are nucleic acid.

24. (Previously presented) In a capillary electrophoresis method in which analyte species are separated by differential electrophoretic migration through a fluid separation medium under the influence of a run field, an improvement for reducing peak broadening caused when the run field is established comprising:

establishing the run field at a ramp rate no greater than about 5 V/cm-s;

wherein the analyte species are nucleic acid.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the run field ranges from about 50 V/cm to about 3,000 V/cm.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the run field ranges between about 80 V/cm and 500 V/cm.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the run field is established over a period of at least about 10 seconds.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the run field is established over a period ranging from about 20 seconds to about 4,000 seconds.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the ramp rate ranges from about 0.1 V/cm-s to about 1.0 V/cm-s.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein peak broadening associated with establishment of a run field is reduced at least about 10% compared to that found when an electric ramp is not used.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein peak broadening is reduced at least about 25%.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein peak broadening is reduced at least about 40%.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the run field ranges from about 50 V/cm to about 3,000 V/cm.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the run field ranges between about 80 V/cm and 500 V/cm.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the run field is established over a period of at least about 10 seconds.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the run field is established over a period ranging from about 20 seconds to about 4,000 seconds.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the ramp rate ranges from about 0.1 V/cm-s to about 1.0 V/cm-s.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein peak broadening associated with establishment of a run field is reduced at least about 10% compared to that found when an electric ramp is not used.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein peak broadening is reduced at least about 25%.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein peak broadening is reduced at least about 40%.